CalSIEC AGENDA REPORT

TO:　　　　**California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Chairs**

FROM:　　　**Michael Crews, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator**

DATE:　　　**October 5, 2010**

SUBJECT:　　**Updates to the State Mutual-Aid Radio System Plans**

SUMMARY: California's Mutual Aid Communication system plans include CLERS, CLEMARS, CALCORD, CESRS, FireMARS, FIRE NET and STACOM. Many of these plans have not been updated in years and are in dire need of revisions. As a result, public-safety entities across the state are unaware of the guidelines and procedures associated with the use of these systems. With collaboration with public-safety stakeholders across the state, every plan was reviewed and revised to meet the current and future requirements for interoperable communications.

BACKGROUND:
The Statewide Mutual-Aid Radio System Plan (SMARS) was developed to assist in multi-agency response for on-scene communications. The plan provides rules and/or guidelines on the proper use state-owned public safety frequencies that are shared on a statewide basis. This plan covers the following systems:

- CLEMARS
- CLERS
- FIRENET
- CESRS
- CALCORD
- FIREMARS
- STACOM

The previous documentation related to these systems are from 1999-2004. Although these systems have not changed significantly, the process of updating documentation allows identification of issues and inconsistencies that can be incorporated into tactical and strategic plans. CalSIEC along with CalEMA identified the need to update and revise these plans, including the overall SMARS document. Occasionally SMARS is mistaken as a separate statewide radio system, resulting in obscure requests or improper references. Several stakeholders agreed that steps should be taken to address this confusion.

The SMARS plan along with all the associated plans and applications were reviewed and updated with recommendations from Cal EMA's Fire & Rescue and Law Enforcement divisions. Stakeholders across the state from all disciplines were also consulted. It was these inputs that guided some of the significant changes.

Significant changes:

- Added language about the narrowband mandate to the letters of introduction
- Revised licensing procedures
- Updated the documents to reflect Cal EMA and the CalSIEC
- Channel Use Priorities re-numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (previously 1,2,3,3a,4)
- Notification of priority traffic: responsibility of the user to inform other area users and to notify the Cal EMA Warning Center
- Added language on using Standard California Channel Identifiers only
- Added Message Precedence classification
- Updated the Complaint Procedure
- Added "Essential Interoperability Guidelines" checklist
- CLEMARS:

    1. Removed references to the CLEMARS Committee, added authority of the CalSIEC
    2. Reinforced eligibility language
    3. Updated language on the 800 MHz CLEMARS channels (to reflect authority of Region 5 and 6)
    4. Coded Squelch: added language that local PLs are permissible only if the agency has the ability to continuously monitor a receiver with the universal mutual aid tone (156.7/$293) or has a receiver without the tone protection
    5. Voice Privacy: Added possibility of obtaining one-time waiver to allow for voice privacy under special circumstances
    6. Frequency Protection: added language that Cal EMA will establish guidelines for protecting the channels adjacent to CLEMARS as the State transitions to narrowband operations
    7. Added "post" narrowband information for CLEMARS channels
    8. Added CLEMARS Repeater Location tables & Maps

- Created a plan for FIREMARS (based on CLEMARS)
- Drastically updated FireNET (based on CLEMARS)
- Changed SMARS acronym to title "Guidelines for use of Statewide Interoperability Radio Systems "

    1. Added language on narrowband
    2. Added "statewide" operational standards
    3. Added all the national interoperability channels

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Replace the "SMARS" acronym with a document title *Guidelines for Use of Statewide Interoperability Radio Systems.*
2. All Interoperability Radio System Plans should be reviewed on an annual basis.
3. All Interoperability Radio System Plans will be available on the CalSIEC website.
4. Endorse the following Interoperability Radio System Plans.

CLEMARS	California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Radio System
CESRS	California Emergency Services Radio System
CalCORD	California On-Scene Emergency Coordination Radio Plan
FIRE Net	California Fire Service & Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System
FireMARS	California Fire Mutual Aid Radio System Plan
STACOM	High Frequency Single-Sideband Radio System Plan
CLERS	California Law Enforcement Radio System